



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 29, 2021

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Directors of Pupil Services, Guidance Office Staff, CST Staff, Principals, Vice Principals, Counselors

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

New Professional Development Learning Module: Toxic Stress and Well-being Among Students Affected by Forced Migration

The International Rescue Committee's New Jersey Office for Refugees is excited to share a new professional development offering for educators: [Toxic Stress and Well-being among Students Affected by Forced Migration](#). This course is developed in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Education and draws from the International Rescue Committee's expertise in implementing education and social-emotional learning programs for conflict-affected children around the world. The course is freely available on the Kaya learning platform.

Participants who complete and receive a completion certificate may use the hours toward New Jersey's required 100 Professional Development hours.

Content is organized around the following learning objectives:

- Learn from students and families who have experienced forced migration first-hand through multimedia sources about forced migration, toxic stress, and their experiences with school and life in a new country;
- Examine the links between students' toxic stress, learning, and well-being;
- Learn about resources available within schools and communities to support students affected by toxic stress;
- An introduction to key elements of Healing Learning Spaces.

The free course is currently available and can be accessed [here](#). For instructions on registering for the course, [click to view the instructional video](#) or access a [PDF guide](#). We encourage you to share this course with others using our [course flyer](#).

Contact information

Contact the New Jersey Office for Refugees at njor.info@rescue.org with any questions.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
New Jersey Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages/New Jersey Bilingual Educators
NJ LEE Group